

The Groundplane



Join your fellow SBARA members for a BBQ at the Veterans Hall.
Time: 6:00PM — Date: July 8th.

President's Message — By Al Rendon WT6K

Another Field Day is behind us. It was a wonderful experience and I want to thank everyone who helped in the planning, setting up, operating, cooking the meals and hanging around to take down and pack the vehicles. Reflecting on the experience I had a great time. I hope that everyone who participated also enjoyed himself or herself. We worked AO 51 Saturday night and made five contacts. The GOTA 15-meter station made over 200 contacts and that was with seven operators under 18. That was 100% increase in contacts over last year. The 20-meter CW station made 277 contacts a 70% increase over last year. The 40-meter CW station had a similar increase. We are nearly at the bottom of the sunspot cycle and it turns out that HF propagation

was not bad at all. I was impressed with the increase in the number of campers who stayed overnight this year. Also, we had a big increase in the number of operators. So, as you can see it was a great SBARA Field Day. I'm looking forward doing more contesting on a smaller scale during the year. As for Field Day, I can't wait until next year!

This month we are fortunate to have Dean Straw N6BV of the ARRL presenting at the July meeting. His topic is timely since we have just been operating HF at Field Day. He will show us how to use the propagation CD that comes with the Amateur Radio Handbook to predict HF openings for working DX and contesting. Let put our 'best foot forward' and have a good turnout for Dean. As you know we

have been gathering prior to the meeting at a restaurant for dinner. This month with the weather warming we will be having a pre-meeting barbeque at the Veterans Memorial building starting at 6:00PM. Hot Dogs and Hamburgers will only cost \$1 and drinks \$.50. Also, read in this issue about the raffle Gene Arrillaga KD6ZYD has planned. I think he has one of the new Kenwood HTs as one of the prizes. Looking forward to seeing all of you at the SBARA meeting on July 8th.

July Program

Dean Straw N6BV of the ARRL will present at this month's meeting. His topic will be on HF propagation and titled, "Strategies Using Propagation Predictions (cont'd. on page 2)

July 2005
Volume 6 Issue 7

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Special points of interest:

- Field Day Ramblings
- K2 Transceiver
- Field Day Photos
- Zucchini Festival

Public Service Events are a great place to practice emergency communications. Although the Zucchini Festival does not include amateur radio, it still involves operating a radio over a net. Some recent events include Bay-to-Breakers, Baker to Vegas, and Mt. Hamilton Bike Classic. I participated in the last two and had a great time. I encourage everyone to try public events as it is a wonderful

learning experience. Another opportunity to practice talking on a net is the Tri-Cities ARES net held each Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm on the WA6PWW repeater, 147.015 +. While it is for the ARES groups, everyone is encouraged to check in.

**ELECRAFT K2
FIRST PRIZE—Winner
Announced!!!!**

Congratulations to SBARA 2005 Field Day K2 Raffle Winner:

Cortland Richmond - KA5S

Santa Rosa, Ca 95404

Thank you to all the greater Bay Area amateur community that supported this SBARA Field Day fundraiser by your donations for a chance to win the K2 Transceiver

July Program (cont'd.)

(from page 1) for DXing and Contesting". We are fortunate to have Dean coming to SBARA so let's show our appreciation with a big turn out. This presentation will go into details about actually using propagation predictions. The main thrust is how to use the predictions included on the CD-ROM bundled with the 20th Edition of "The ARRL An-

tenna Book" to optimize results for DXing and Contesting on HF. This topic is timely since Field Day was last weekend and we are interested in better understanding how the HF bands work.

Field Day Ramblings — By Mike Studer — K6EEP

All went well at Field Day this year. The big news was that the bands held up very well. I was working 20 meters and that band stayed open all night.

Even if the hams didn't. Lots of call-signs I recognized from last year. W7FLY, W1MOO, N1FD. And a new one VP2AA from Antigua in the Virgin Islands. W3AO was 21A in Maryland. That's 21 simultaneous transmitters. Yikes! I bet they win their class. I will be interested in seeing how many others are in that group. N1FD seems kind of wimpy with 'only' 16 transmitters after that one.

This year we made 277 contacts on 20m CW. Last year we had 200. So that's a nice big increase over last year. And since CW has a multiplier of two that's 554 points. Nice!

We had more cross-band interference this year than last. I am sure we will work on improving that for next year. But we put up a lot of jungle towers.

Adam Feriante put up a nice vertical for 80m. And topped it off with an American flag. It looked pretty neat. It was WAY up there. The fact that we don't use trees for antenna mounts means we are well prepared for any emergency. All we need are helpers to erect the jungle towers. It takes a lot.

Some of the weirdness... I arrived to find my tent location was in danger of being flooded by an out of control sprinkler. The park repairman fixed it just in time to spare my tent from a flooding. We used the upside down garbage can trick to stem the tide until repairs were made.

Our generator didn't start. I think 6 people tried to pull start it. We even got desperate and called the owner, Mike Fung, to come over and help. I guess we hoped he knew the magic words to make it work. After some good troubleshooting by several people we got it to start. The fuel line was plugged.

I ran on one battery for almost all of Field Day. I only had to swap it out about 8AM Sunday. The K2 worked very well. And I had no equipment problems during the event.

I had a lot of fun. I hope everyone who came also had fun. I can hardly wait until next year.

UPCOMING EVENTS			
DATE	TIME	EVENT	DETAILS
July 8 th	6:00 PM	PRE MEETING BBQ	VETERANS HALL NILES
July 8 th	7:30 PM	SBARA GENERAL MEETING	VETERANS HALL NILES

Secretary News — By Don Gintel— KG6SBE

Al Rendon WT6K called the business meeting for June 10, 2005 to order.

When asked if there were any upgrades Ms. Amanda Feriante KG6UYW advised everyone that she passed her CW and General test. When I asked her if the tests were hard she said a little. When I asked her how long she had to study for the Code part she said two weeks, so way to go Amanda.

Due to the fact that Field Day was in the month of June, I will end this part with the meeting raffle prizes and then talk about Field Day events.

Gene had 7 raffle prizes to give away this month:

Prize # 1 Kris Berry KG6NUU won the Antenna Book.

Prize # 2 Annette Berry KG6NUR won the Krispy Kreme Certificate.

Prize # 3 Sam Severs WS6S won the Multi-Tester.

Prize # 4 Steve Strong KD6LMQ won a Ham Stop Hat.

Prize # 5 Earnest Anaya KF6FFE won the Grundig Portable Radio

Prize # 6 Al Rendon WT6K won the Repeater Directory

Prize # 7 Annette Berry

KG6NUR won a camping chair.

Onto Field Day 2005 at the Fremont Central Park:

A number of tents were set-up and the radio equipment was set-up in the tents getting ready for a number of contact points.

The weather was a little cool but no rain or lawn sprinklers to worry about. Harry Lau KF6QAK and crew did another great job for the main meal on Saturday. Great job and meal.

The end of the meal was completed by the winner of the Field Day raffle being drawn for the Elecraft K2 HF. The winner was Cortland Richmond KA5S from Santa Rosa.

One of the high points was when AL Rendon WT6K and his fine and talented crew set-up the station for a Satellite contact. At 11:30 pm the station was set-up along with headphones ready for the contact with AO-51. Al made at least 5 contacts, but all we needed was the one for a total of 100 points.

Field Day ended for me on Sunday at 1:00 am. Can't wait until next year. I hope everyone had a great time.

July Meeting Raffle Details

The holder of the first winning ticket in July's raffle will get to choose one of two great prizes, either a Kenwood TH-K2AT a 2 meter hand held or a satellite package- ARRL's The Radio Amateur's Satellite Handbook and the satellite tracking software "Nova for Windows ver 2.1v". The remaining great prize will reappear later in the year. The TH-K2AT is powered by 6 alkaline batteries (other power options available) and has 3 RF power ranges from .5W to 5W. Up to 100 memory channels are available to cover a receive frequency range of 136-174MHz, TX range 144-148 MHz.

The Radio Amateur's Satellite Handbook is a treasure trove of information on working with amateur satellites, it covers the history, how to get started, how to build the antenna you will need, and how to find the bird. "Nova", the tracking software of choice for many satellite users, slips right in your PC's CD drive and tells you when and where to listen.

In addition there will be additional prizes as participation warrants. Again, SBARA would like to thank HRO Sunnyvale for their generous help in obtaining raffle prizes.





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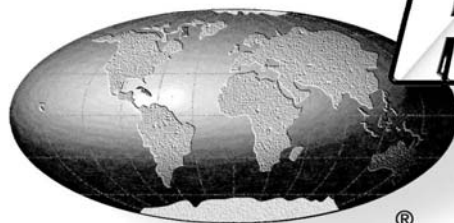
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The Purpose of Amateur Radio—by the Rules, Part 97

There has been some discussion recently about the purpose of Amateur Radio. Here is what the "official rule book" (FCC Reg. Part 97.1) has to say: (emphasis added)

The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a *fundamental purpose* as expressed in the following principles:

- (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary non-commercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.*
- (b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.*
- (c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.*
- (d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.*
- (e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.*

Zucchini Festival — 2005



Did you miss the fun last year? Well, set aside some time on August 20th or 21st and join other SBARA members at the Hayward Zucchini Festival. We provide communications support as a group and have fun at the same time. To sign up come to the July 8th SBARA meeting where there will be a signup sheet.

For more information call Al Rendon at — (510) 656-2427.

Handy Web Links

SBARA Web Site	http://www.qsl.net/sbara
ARRL Main Site	http://www.arrl.org/
ARRL SCV Division	http://www.arrl.org/sections/SCV.html
ARRL East Bay Section	http://www.pdarrl.org/ebsec/index.html
ARRL Contest Page	http://www.arrl.org/contests
Contest Calendar	http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal
Callsign Lookup (QRZ)	http://www.qrz.com/
Vanity Callsign Info	http://www.vanityhq.com/
IRLP Main Page	http://www.irlp.net/
AMSAT	http://www.amsat.org/
FCC Services	http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur

SBARA on the Internet at

<http://www.qsl.net/sbara>

On the Air at 147.015 + PL 103.5

Fremont Repeaters & Net Information

WA6PWW - 147.015 +600Khz, PL 103.5
 WA6PWW - 223.900 -500Khz, PL 107.2
 WA6PWW - 442.600 +5Mhz, PL 107.2
 N6OXR - 146.94 -600Khz, PL 123.0
 N6OXR - 441.525 +5Mhz, PL 123.0
 ARES - Tuesday @ 7:30pm - 147.015 + PL 103.5

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The Groundplane is published monthly by the South Bay Amateur Radio Association. Articles and letters are always welcome. The normal deadline for material is six days prior to the end of the previous month. Articles can be sent by email to hamradio@comcast.net or via U.S. Mail. Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines. The opinions expressed in the Groundplane are strictly those of the authors.

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The Ground Plane



SBARA monthly meeting:
July 8th, 2005
at the Veterans Hall in the
Niles District
Meeting Details in this Issue

At 6:00PM prior to the July 8th
SBARA meeting we will be having a
BBQ with Hamburgers and all the trim-
mings. Join your fellow SBARA mem-
bers for a social meal.

BBQ Details in this issue!!!!

The Ground Plane—KU6S
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